

FARM LABORMINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS SERVICE

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Homepage: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/mn/>**LAKE REGION HIRED WORKER NUMBERS UP 10% SINCE LAST YEAR**

Lake Region: There were 50,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin) farms the week of January 11-17, 2004, up by 5,000 from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Weather conditions during both the survey week and the previous week were dry with little snow cover and seasonably cold temperatures in the major agricultural districts of Minnesota. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$10.68 per hour during the January 2004 survey week, up by 14 cents from \$10.54 in January 2003. Field workers received an average of \$10.11 per hour, a 40-cent decrease from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.41 per hour compared with \$9.44 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.60 per hour was down by 5 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 34.2 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 31.7 hours a year ago. An increase in livestock inventories and continuing growth in the nursery and greenhouse sector appear to be causing the increase in employment and hours worked.

United States: There were 847,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 workers were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.84 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.55 per hour, was up 5 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 38.1 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

**WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,
LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, JANUARY 2004**

	Lake Region 1/		United States 2/	
	January 12-18 2003	January 11-17 2004	January 12-18 2003	January 11-17 2004
	1,000 Workers			
Workers on Farms All Hired Workers	45	50	729	667
	Hours Per Week			
Hours Worked All Hired Workers	31.7	34.2	37.7	38.1
	Dollars Per Hour			
Workers By Work Type				
Field	10.51	10.11	8.30	8.39
Livestock	9.44	9.41	8.90	8.84
Field & Livestock	9.65	9.60	8.50	8.55
All Workers	10.54	10.68	9.34	9.41

1/Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/Excludes Alaska.